

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

As stated in the Advisory Action, mailed October 21, 2005, the claim amendments and new claims proposed in the Amendment After Final Rejection, filed October 13, 2005, were not entered.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2 and 7 have been cancelled. Claims 3 and 6 have been amended. New claims 8-10 have been added. Claims 3-6 and 8-10 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the amended and new claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1, 2 AND 7 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY LOERCH (U.S. PATENT NO. 4,632,612)

Claims 1, 2 and 7 are cancelled herein. Thus, the rejections thereof are considered moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Advisory Action, mailed October 21, 2005, the Examiner indicates that newly proposed or amended claims 3-6 and 11-13 (added in the Amendment After Final Rejection, but not entered) would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims.

Claims 3 and 6 are rewritten in independent form including the limitations of their respective base and any intervening claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

As stated at page 2, item 1, of the Final Office Action, claims 4 and 5 are allowable.

Claim 11, as provided in the Amendment After Final Rejection, is renumbered as claim 8, since the claims submitted after the final rejection were not entered, and rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base claim. Thus, claim 8 is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 12 and 13, as provided in the Amendment After Final Rejection, are renumbered as claims 9 and 10, respectively, since the claims submitted after the final rejection were not entered. Thus, claims 9 and 10 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome, and all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Nov. 15, 2005

By: H. J. Staas
H. J. Staas
Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501